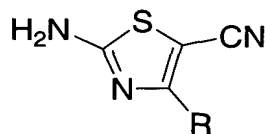


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process for preparing an unsubstituted or substituted 2-amino-5-cyanothiazole compounds of Formula I



I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt,

wherein

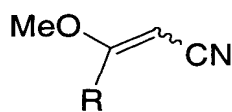
R is H, unsubstituted or substituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted aryl or unsubstituted or substituted heteroaryl;

which comprises the steps of:

- a) halogenating and hydrolyzing a solution of an unsubstituted or substituted 3-alkoxy or 3-aryloxy acrylonitrile in a solvent to produce a mixture;
- b) adding thiourea to the mixture and neutralizing to produce a product; and
- c) isolating the amino-cyanothiazole of Formula I.

2. The process according to Claim 1 which comprises:

- a) brominating and hydrolyzing a solution of a substituted or unsubstituted 3-methoxyacrylonitrile of Formula II



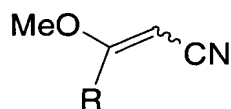
II

(where R is defined as in Claim 1) in acetonitrile to produce a mixture;

- b) adding thiourea to the mixture and neutralizing produce a product; and
- c) isolating the amino-cyanothiazole.

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3. The process according to Claim 2 which comprises:
  - a) brominating and hydrolyzing a solution of a substituted or unsubstituted 3-methoxyacrylonitrile of Formula II

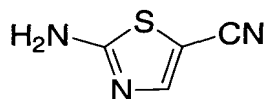
**II**

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- (where R is defined as in Claim 1) in acetonitrile to produce a mixture;
- b) adding thiourea to the mixture, neutralizing and heating to a temperature of about 40°C to about 70°C to produce a product; and
  - c) isolating the amino-cyanothiazole.

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4. A process for preparing an amino-cyanothiazole of Formula Ia

**Ia**

which comprises the steps of:

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- a) brominating and hydrolyzing a solution of 3-methoxyacrylonitrile in acetonitrile to produce a mixture;
- b) adding thiourea to the mixture;
- c) adding NaOAc to neutralize the mixture; and isolating the amino-cyanothiazole of Formula Ia.